

Aziz to visit Peking Feb. 21

PEKING (AP) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz will arrive in Peking Feb. 21 for a visit at the invitation of Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday. The ministry released no other details of the visit, which is likely to include an Iraqi appeal for Chinese support of a proposed U.N. resolution to embargo arms sales to Iran. China claims neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war and supported a U.N. resolution last July calling for a ceasefire in the seven-year conflict. However, China is also accused by the United States of being a major supplier of arms, including anti-ship Silkworm missiles, to Iran. China has denied charges, but has acknowledged that some Chinese arms may reach Iran by way of the international arms market. Two senior Iranian officials said Saturday that an arms embargo against Iran to enforce a Gulf war ceasefire would effectively kill U.N. peace efforts.

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Prince Mohammad begins Oman visit

MUSCAT (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad bin Talal arrived Saturday here on a private visit during which he will meet Sultan Qaboos of Oman. Prince Mohammad was received upon arrival by Oman Deputy Prime Minister Fahd Ibo Mahmood Al Said.

Rifa'i briefs Cabinet

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifa'i Saturday briefed the Cabinet on His Majesty King Hussein's recent talks in Italy, the Vatican, France, West Germany and Austria. The prime minister also reviewed a decision taken by the European Community's foreign ministers condemning Israel's oppressive measures in the occupied territories. During its regular weekly session, the Cabinet endorsed a draft law aimed at improving tourism.

Radio Al Quds changes frequencies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Radio Al Quds, accused by Israel of directing Palestinian strikes in the occupied territories, changed frequencies two days after Israel jammed it with a more powerful signal carrying Israel Radio's Arabic service, according to listeners here. The Palestinian station could now be heard on a new frequency both in Jerusalem and in the West Bank, according to reports. The radio's call-sign, "the station for the liberation of the land and the man," was first heard on Jan. 1.

Pro-Palestinian rally held in Rome

ROME (R) — Thousands of demonstrators marched through the centre of Rome Saturday, calling for a Palestinian homeland and for peace in the Middle East. Representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Italy, union leaders and political figures, including Communist Party chief Alessandro Natta, led the marchers who carried banners calling on Israel to "sit down and talk." Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is due in Italy Monday for a two-day official visit.

Kidnapped UNRWA officials 'questioned'

BEIRUT (R) — An anonymous statement delivered to an international news agency in Beirut Saturday said two kidnapped U.N. Scandinavian relief workers were being questioned and might be released within a week. The handwritten document said: "We will interrogate them according to information we have, and if they prove to be innocent, we will release them within a week." It was undated and bore the signatures of the two kidnapped men, Ian Stening, 44, and William Loengren, 57, of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees (See related story on page 2).

Reagan in Mexico

MAZATLAN (AP) — President Reagan arrived Saturday in Mexico for a summit meeting with Mexico's President Miguel de la Madrid which he said would act "to strengthen the commercial ties between our peoples." It was the sixth summit for the two leaders in as many years.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times

Der Spiegel regrets 'Waldheim telegram'

HAMBURG (R) — The West German news magazine Der Spiegel said Saturday it regretted publishing a telegram which suggested Austrian President Kurt Waldheim had been involved in Nazi war crimes. In an editorial made available before publication Monday the magazine said it regretted that it had not "presented the document with the necessary objectivity." Yugoslav authorities said last Tuesday it was investigating several people on suspicion of document forgery. Iran and insulting a foreign head of state. Yugoslav historian Dusan Plenkovic, who gave a photocopy of the telegram to the magazine, guaranteed its authenticity in an affidavit, Spiegel said. The magazine said two weeks ago that the telegram was dated 1943 and showed that Waldheim ordered the deportation of more than 4,000 Yugoslav civilians while serving as a German army officer. A West German typewriting expert found that the machine used to type the telegram was not available before 1949.

Arabs battle Israeli troops in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian demonstrators battled Israeli soldiers in two Jerusalem neighbourhoods Saturday and first reports said at least two Arabs were wounded in Israeli army gunfire and 10 more were injured by beatings or rubber bullets in the clashes.

The army said it lifted a curfew imposed nine days ago on the West Bank town of Tulkarem 60 kilometres northeast of Jerusalem, where some 10,000 Palestinians live.

But over 20,000 people remained curfewed in the nearby Tulkarem refugee camp and the village of Anabta and in Gaza Strip's refugee camp of Deir Al Balah.

A military official speaking on condition of anonymity said two Arabs apparently preparing an improvised bomb were wounded when a bomb went off unexpectedly in Gaza. He said soldiers were not involved in the explosion and that the army was checking the incident.

An Arab reporter in Gaza City said Mohammad Ahmad Ibrahim, 23, and Mahmoud Nimer Mohammad Al Halaby, 24, were brought to the city's Ahi hospital. He said Ibrahim was wounded in his hands while Halaby suffered head and chest wounds.

(Continued on page 3)



A Palestinian boy pleads with an Israeli soldier in a jeep after he was arrested in the occupied West Bank.

3 held after abortive bid to assassinate Gemayel

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Authorities Saturday held three main suspects in connection with an abortive attempt to assassinate President Amin Gemayel by planting a bomb in a plane that was to fly him on official visits to North Yemen and Sudan, police said.

A police spokesman said the three suspects were held "in solitary confinement pending completion of investigation."

The spokesman refused to identify the suspects beyond saying they were all "Lebanese airport employees."

A 500-gramme charge of TNT was planted under the pilot's seat of the Middle East Airlines (MEA) Boeing-707 jetliner that was to leave for Larnaca, Cyprus, Friday to fly Gemayel to Sanaa, North Yemen. The bomb was found and safely defused by explosives experts at Beirut airport.

MEA, Lebanon's national carrier, has assigned another Boeing-707 for the presidential flight and Gemayel left Larnaca for Sanaa Saturday.

Gemayel, 44, travels usually by military helicopter from the Christian heartland northeast of Beirut to Larnaca and flies from there to world capitals.

Sources at the presidential palace said Communications Minister Joseph Al Hashem held urgent talks there on the bomb attempt with top military and security officials including the head of army intelligence, Simon Kassis.

(Continued on page 3)

'Revenge' killings terrify African students in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — The macabre murder of up to 15 African workers and students in Beirut, apparently in a campaign of revenge, Saturday brought a cry for help from others who fear they could be next.

Police confirmed four deaths but the African Student Association in Lebanon (ASAL) told Reuters seven Africans had been killed and eight had been missing for a week.

An ASAL delegation Saturday saw Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss to ask for his help, said one student, Sunday Chukwudi of Nigeria.

"He promised us that he will ask the police to investigate the killings," he said.

ASAL said the victims were from Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Guinea.

Police said the bullet-riddled

Iraq accuses Israel, Iran of collaborating against Arabs

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq accused Israel of working side by side with Iran to undermine Arab security and sovereignty, the armed forces newspaper said Saturday, a day after Baghdad reported its air defences shot down an intruding Israeli drone.

The Al Qadissiya daily also said Israel was using its most sophisticated reconnaissance drones to monitor developments in the Gulf and provide military information to Iran, Iraq's enemy and that the delayed trip would begin Monday.

The Al Qadissiya said: "The launching of the surveillance drone from the occupied territories on the route R-19 is aimed at providing military information to the Iranian rulers in order to encourage them to continue their war against Iraq."

Route 19 is Iraq's only air corridor through which civilian aircraft is authorised to fly over Iraqi territory since the Gulf war began.

The Al Qadissiya said: "The Government of Zionist entity should bear total responsibility for this act of aggression which endangers civil aviation."

The Al Qadissiya said: "The INA said the craft was destroyed by Iraqi air defences near Al Maaniyah, a small outpost 300 kilometres southwest of Baghdad on the Saudi-Iraqi border, at 5:44 p.m. (1444 GMT) Thursday.

The Iraqi statement said: "The launching by the Zionists of the surveillance object... was part of the collaboration between the racist Zionist and Iranian regimes against the Arab Nation."

It was believed to be the first reported Israeli intrusion into Iraqi air space since Israeli warplanes destroyed an uncompleted Iraqi nuclear power station in 1981.

Iraq reports attacks on ships near Sirri Island

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said its warplanes attacked two very large naval targets — its term for supertankers or big merchant ships — near Iran's oil terminal at Sirri Island in the Gulf late Friday.

The aircraft scored accurate and effective hits in simultaneous strikes near the island at 9:08 p.m. (1808 GMT) and returned safely to base, a military spokesman said Saturday.

He added that the aim of the attacks was to stop Iran using its oil supplies to finance its war machine.

Even as these executives were talking, it was being reported that a Soviet-made Iraqi bidder fired two air-to-surface missiles at Iranian oil tanker routes — and that the missiles streaked within 13 kilometres of the destroyer Chaudier, one of the U.S. warships that provide protection to U.S.-flagged commercial vessels against Iranian attacks (see page 2).

Hayden arrives for talks on Mideast peace efforts and bilateral relations

By Sa'd G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Australian Foreign and Trade Minister Bill Hayden flew in from Damascus Saturday for talks he said would aim at identifying means of bringing about a negotiated settlement to the Palestinian problem and ways of promoting trade between Jordan and Australia.

Hayden told reporters upon arrival the Australian stand on the Middle East problem was identical with the Jordanian view which calls for a U.N.-sponsored international Middle East peace conference to be attended by all parties involved in the conflict and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Hayden said his country was closely following the latest developments in the region and had always supported efforts to achieve a durable peace that would secure the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Hayden, who accompanied by his wife, attended a dinner hosted in his honour Saturday by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, who flew in from Vienna shortly after the Australian minister and Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Daudin.

Talks in Syria

In Damascus, Hayden held talks with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Minister of Economy and External Trade Mohammad Imadi. The talks tackled means of enhancing Syrian-Australian economic relations.

(Continued on page 3)

Syria warns U.S. not to revive Camp David plans

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria warned U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Saturday against trying to reactivate the Camp David treaty during his tour of the Middle East later this month.

"If the United States wants to activate the Camp David process, which failed on the ground, during its new move, it will achieve total failure," Damascus Radio said.

The State Department said Friday Shultz would travel to the Middle East on or about Feb. 24 with a new plan for Middle East peace.

The plan, presented to regional leaders earlier this month by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy, calls for an "international meeting" in April to pave the way for direct Arab-Israeli talks.

Discussions would follow on granting Palestinians limited "self-rule" in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Partial and unilateral deals which contradict the spirit of the United Nations resolutions are rejected," Damascus Radio said in a commentary.

It said Shultz must know that old American initiatives which abandoned the U.N. role and Soviet participation in finding a solution could not solve the conflict.

The commentary also warned Shultz not to reject the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, one of two basic conditions for a just peace. The second was full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

At a foreign ministry briefing Friday, an Israeli official said that Israel accepts the American timetable calling for negotiations on "self-rule" to begin in April.

But he said the Soviet Union must restore full diplomatic relations with the Zionist state, cut off in 1967, before it can participate in the peace process.

(Continued on page 3)

Cossiga asks Goria to resurrect government

ROME (Agencies) — Italian President Francesco Cossiga Saturday ordered Giovanni Goria, who resigned as prime minister Wednesday, to resurrect his coalition government and face a parliamentary confidence vote, presidential officials said.

Officials at Cossiga's palace said the president had rejected Goria's resignation and ordered the coalition of his Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals to face the vote.

It was not immediately clear whether Goria's mandate is merely to remain until Italy's 1988 budget is approved by parliament by the April 30 deadline, as many politicians have suggested.

The president's other options included appointing a new prime minister to try to form a new coalition government or dissolving parliament and calling early general elections.

Goria, at 44 Italy's youngest-ever premier, resigned saying a series of defeats on secret votes on the budget convinced him he could no longer govern.

While Cossiga's decision at least temporarily rescues Italy's 47th post-war government, it does not resolve the problems within the governing coalition that led to the collapse.

Goria told reporters at the presidential palace that he had agreed to withdraw his resignation out of a sense of responsibility.

Palestinians protest against abduction of UNRWA staff

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Hundreds of angry Palestinians burned tyres at the entrances of two refugee camps near this southern Lebanese port Saturday to protest against the kidnapping of two Scandinavian U.N. relief workers.

Smoke billowed over Aio Al Hilweh and Miye Mieh camps where a strike closed schools, shops and other businesses for the second time in a week.

Men, women and children carried banners at the camps calling for the release of Swedish Jan Stening, 44, and Norwegian William Joergensen, 57.

The two, who worked for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA), were kidnapped by Palestinian gunmen near Sidon last Friday.

UNRWA, which employs more than 2,000 Palestinians in Lebanon, said the two threatened continued U.N. aid to Palestinians and Lebanese.

It said the kidnappers were Palestinians with connections to the Al Fatah group of Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Arafat was quoted in Cairo Saturday as saying Fatah forces had found the kidnappers' hide-out and surrounded it. They had not stormed it because the victims' governments had asked them not to do.

Arab-Americans urge new U.S. line on PLO

WASHINGTON (R) — Arab-American groups have urged the Reagan administration to shift its policy on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), saying new U.S. peace moves in the Middle East were unlikely to succeed until that happened.

Khalil Jabshan, chairman of the Council of Presidents of National Arab-American Organisations, told a news conference he and other leaders of the organisation's 14 member groups met Secretary of State George Shultz Thursday night and were encouraged by renewed U.S. efforts

Negotiations between Musatafa Saad, leader of the Sunni Muslim Popular Liberation Army (PLA), which controls Sidon, and Palestinian and UNRWA officials have failed to secure the release of the two.

The abduction prompted UNRWA to evacuate two of its international staff from Lebanon Thursday.

An UNRWA spokeswoman said four others, who were on leave at the time of abduction, would stay in Cyprus and were regarded as evacuees.

Four Irish employees and the agency's Swedish director, Per Olof Hallquist, will stay in Lebanon to continue efforts to release the two captives.

Palestinian officials of several factions denied any links to the abduction and vowed to work for the release of the two, hinting at the possibility of using force if dialogue failed.

No group has claimed responsibility for the kidnappings.

Falangists hold Danish seamen

In a separate development, the Falangist Lebanese Forces militia is holding eight seamen, including

three Danes, but plans to release them within days, Danish Charge d'Affaires Ole Meistrup said Saturday.

"Some Danish sailors are present with the Lebanese Forces because they did not have all the regular papers. We are working on their release which will be during the few coming days," Meistrup told Reuters.

The men have been held since last December.

He refused to elaborate but said that the eight were not hostages, but were held for routine investigations.

Lebanese Forces officials refused to comment.

Security sources in Christian east Beirut told Reuters the eight — three Danes, four Poles and one Sri Lankan — were captured by the Lebanese Forces from a cargo ship off Lebanese waters on Dec. 27.

"Their cargo ship was taking weapons to the Palestinians in the South. The Lebanese Forces intercepted them and had been holding them for investigation," one source said.

He said the ship was forced to dock at the fifth basin of Beirut port, controlled by the Lebanese Forces.

Details were not available on the capture of the ship and it was not immediately clear whether the ship had delivered its cargo when it was intercepted.

The 1,150-strong contingent made the journey aboard a Liberian-flag ship owned by the Israeli shipping company ZIM.

South Africa sent a 260-strong team and Norway contributed 670 personnel. The declared purpose was exploration.

Norway and South Africa helped Israel build an airstrip, a communication station and research centres and all work was completed by November 1985.

According to Al Ahram, two C-130 military planes landed in Port Elizabeth in December 1986, carrying 42 Israelis who were immediately transported to Queen Maud Land aboard a South African cargo ship for the test.

The report said 750 Israelis were sent home in February last year and the rest returned last Aug. 31.

Al Ahram cited shipment to Israel of 21 tonnes of Norwegian heavy water, essential for the nuclear arms industry, from 1959 to 1970 as a proof of close cooperation between them.

It said Israel has sent seven teams, including military personnel and technicians, to Norway over the past year for training to work in very cold conditions.

Al Ahram said the three countries have discovered uranium, coal, iron and oil in Queen Maud Land.

Israel had now stopped its activities there as Norway did not want to anger Arab states, Al Ahram said.

By reiterating the U.S. refusal to deal with the PLO, which the administration views as a terrorist group and not representative of the majority of Palestinians.

The latest U.S. efforts to seek a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict came after violence erupted in December between Palestinians and Israeli forces in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza. More than 50 Palestinians have died in the clashes.

The U.S. peace initiative proposes an international meeting that would lead to direct Arab-Israeli talks.

Jahshan said Shultz responded to these concerns in their meeting

to peace in the area.

But Jahshan said the efforts, including a Shultz visit to the Middle East announced on Friday, were unlikely to bear fruit until the United States recognised the right of Palestinians to an independent state and to be represented by the PLO at any talks deciding their future.

"Short of real serious change in the U.S. policy towards the Palestinians ... the process will be of limited results, if any at all," he said.

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In that event, the sources said, the Assembly was almost certain to refer the problem to the World Court for an advisory opinion, which would inevitably go against the United States.

The Arab states' delegates would meet on the matter again next Wednesday, according to the official statement.

The threat to close the 13-year-old PLO mission has put the

United Nations on a collision course with its host country, which has acknowledged that its impending action is contrary to a treaty between them.

In a report Thursday, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar proposed conciliation procedures, but the United States said these were not yet necessary.

Attorney General Edwin Meese is expected to announce next week a response to the decision by Congress to close the mission. With reservations, President Reagan signed the decision into law.

Diplomatic sources said that if the United States declined to accept arbitration or, baving

accepted it, still closed the PLO mission while the procedure was under way, the question would go to a reconvened U.N. General Assembly session.

A statement after the closed-door meeting said the group chairman, Ambassador Karim Al Shakar of Bahrain, was empowered to contact the heads of other U.N. regional groups "to seek their support for whatever action might be taken" in response.

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Israel conducts 3 nuclear tests in Antarctica

CAIRO (R) — An authoritative Egyptian newspaper Saturday said Israel had carried out three nuclear tests in the Norwegian sector of Antarctica in cooperation with Norway and South Africa.

"The blood of a martyr," he cried, as youths threw bricks, bottles and cinderblocks from rooftops on to Israeli foot patrols in the old city of Nablus, the largest city in the occupied West Bank.

"The flag of a martyr," he cried, as youths threw bricks, bottles and cinderblocks from rooftops on to Israeli foot patrols in the old city of Nablus, the largest city in the occupied West Bank.

The flag was dipped in the blood of 14-year-old Basel Tayseir Al Jitan, shot dead by Israeli troops outside the Al Nasir Mosque in the city's market district during a pitched battle with hundreds of Palestinian protesters.

The first stones flew as worshippers left the mosque, chanting "Allah Akbar" (God is Great), and were immediately answered by tear gas. Youths scattered, taking up new positions on rooftops, in doorways, and on the roof of the mosque itself.

Some fired glass marbles from slingshots, others threw flowerpots, tin cans and bottles in a battle that raged for more than an hour.

Then the body of the other dead Palestinian, 17-year-old Bashir Al Masri, a member of an illustrious Nahlus clan whose members include Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, was carried to the mosque.

Mourners dipped their hands in his blood, wailed and cried vengeance.

A crowd of 300 accompanied the body, draped in a Palestinian flag, to a hillside cemetery where Masri was buried overlooking the mosque as gunfire echoed from the old city.

As days of curfew in Nablus, home to more than 100,000 Palestinians, had apparently not calmed the anti-Israeli revolt.

IDB moves to implement Regent's recommendations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday received a message from President of the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank informing him that the IDB has taken certain measures to implement the Crown Prince's recommendations to the IDB Board of Governors.

Prince Hassan, in his inaugural speech of the 10th annual meeting of the IDB Board of Governors held in Amman last March, called for increasing the bank's credit facilities and in-kind assistance to areas encountering economic difficulties, particularly the least developed countries.

Prince Hassan's recommendations aimed at enabling such countries or areas to obtain easy loans and funds with the ultimate goal of creating new job opportunities for people living in these

areas and consequently improving their income.

In his message, the IDB president said that the bank, in implementation of the recommendations, has sent two task forces to Sudan and Mali to familiarise themselves with the various development projects — particularly those related to agriculture, water, combatting desertification, roads and transport — in preparation for drawing up the necessary technical assistance programmes.

The IDB official also said in his letter that the bank's board of directors has approved a strategy for implementing Prince Hassan's recommendations and directives.

The directives include organising scientific seminars and symposiums, designed to identify the appropriate projects to be financed by the bank.



Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayed receives Canadian parliamentary delegation in his office Saturday (Petra photos)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent visits army division

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday visited a formation of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division. The Crown Prince was briefed during the visit on the present and future training programmes carried out by the formation. Prince Hassan also toured the formation's various units where he watched practical demonstrations by the formation's personnel. The Crown Prince also met with the personnel at these units and praised their high efficiency and performance during the demonstrations.

Royal Decree approves revised laws

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the revised regulation of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. The amended regulation deals with the new guidelines governing the construction of mosques, their supervision and restoration. Another Royal Decree has been issued endorsing the Greater Amman supplies and public works regulation, under which principles governing the purchase of supplies and furniture have been defined.

Cabinet endorses cooperation pact

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has endorsed an agreement of cooperation with Tunisia in the field of producing and exchanging topographic maps. The agreement will be signed in Tunis in the second half of March.

European MPs to visit occupied lands

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation will arrive to the occupied Arab territories by the end of this month on a fact-finding mission. Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayed has received a memo from Jordan's ambassador in Brussels concerning the delegation's visit. The delegation comprises parliamentarians from the association's Executive Council. The visit was decided during a meeting of the council held in Brussels on Jan. 22.

5 killed in Zarqa bus accident

ZARQA (Petra) — Five people were killed and five others injured when a bus operating at Amman-Zarqa route hit them Saturday morning. The traffic police chief in Zarqa blamed the accident on high speed and loss of control, which caused the bus to veer to the other side of the street where the victims were waiting.

AAU meeting starts today

SANA'A (Petra) — The five-day meeting of the Association of Arab Universities (AAU) starts here Sunday. Participants will discuss issues pertaining to university education and higher education in the Arab World and the obstacles encountered. Taking part in the meetings and the AAU's 6th general conference, which will follow the 21st session, are representatives for 59 Arab universities, in addition to representatives of the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALECSO) and Association of Arab Scientific Research Councils, in addition to the Arab Federation for Technical Education.

Yarmouk doctors take posts in Tunis

IRIB (Petra) — University of Tunis Faculty of Arts has nominated two Jordanian doctors from the Yarmouk University as members of the editorial board of a magazine issued in English by the University. The Jordanian doctors are Mohammad Zighoul, head of the modern languages section and Mufeed Hawamdeh, doctor of English at the English Language Department.

Hayden begins visit to Jordan

(Continued from page 1) Gaza, the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in strife-torn Lebanon. Sharaa and Hayden agreed on the necessity for a comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian problem through the proposed international peace conference, Petra said.

The Syrian news agency (SANA) said "points of view have converged on that partial or individual solutions cannot achieve the purpose of comprehensive and just peace."

Jordan-Australia trade

Australia's Ambassador to Jordan Terry Goggin told the Jordan Times Hayden's talks in Amman were expected to culminate in signing an agreement aimed at

boosting economic and trade relations between Jordan and Australia. Goggin said that the pact would also entail setting up a joint committee to set targets and identify areas of increased trade.

Statistics show that Jordanian-Australian trade three-to-one in favour of Australia which exported goods worth \$30 million to Jordan in the form of wheat and steel products in 1986. Jordanian exports to Australia included fertilisers.

The proposed committee will aim at promoting trade ties which have dropped substantially in 1987 due to the lack of specialised mechanism to organise trade links, according to the ambassador.

African students terrorised in Lebanon

(Continued from page 1) man was walking in Rabyeh suburb near Dik Al Mehdi Friday when a car drove by and gunmen riddled his body with bullets, killing him instantly.

Chukwudi said Ivory Coast diplomats in east Beirut had asked the "Lebanese Forces" militia to help investigate the killings but a bomb was thrown Monday at the embassy premises in east Beirut.

Ivory Coast officials were not available for comment.

Police confirmed a bomb was buried at the embassy and said there were no casualties.

Police and "Lebanese Forces" sources said the motives behind

the killings were personal and not political.

Giving a different account of first incident, a "Lebanese Forces" source said:

"Three Africans working for a Lebanese man in Dik Al Mehdi had a fight with him, then they hit him and killed him. His friends and family then took revenge and killed several Africans."

The source refused to say how many Africans were killed.

"We don't know if the killings are political or personal but even if they are personal, how many Africans do they have to kill to avenge the death of one man?" Chukwudi asked.

Majali opens Badia training school

AL AZRAQ (Petra) — Director of Public Security Department Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali Saturday said that application of the comprehensive security philosophy has warranted that all security institutions undergo structural changes capable of making them ready to keep abreast with the new developments.

Inaugurating a new training school for Badia (desert) police in Azraq, Majali said that the new philosophy focused on strengthening the humanitarian and so-

cial role of security men, therefore, he added, "desert and border police should not be isolated from the development and organisational process which aims at enabling them to perform their duties in the best manner."

Majali called for holding specialised training courses at the school with the aim of upgrading the performance of Badia and border police cadres.

Majali was briefed on the duties and responsibilities of the school and its role in training and qualifying the police cadres,

which provides the border police and armed forces with trained manpower.

At the end of the celebration Majali toured the various sections of the school and watched a performance staged by a unit of the desert and border police.

The performance included slow and quick march, dismantling and assembling of arms.

Majali also took part in a tree planting celebration, during which 300 olive trees and 2,000 forest trees were planted.

Egyptian team to continue energy talks in Amman

CAIRO (Petra) — A delegation from the Egyptian Ministry of Electricity and Energy is due here next week on an official visit to Jordan during which they will continue talks and discussions with the Jordanian side on a feasibility study of electrical interconnection so that Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia would be linked by an electric grid which allows the exchange of excessive power among the three countries.

The study has been conducted by an international consulting firm.

The delegation represents the

Egyptian side in the Jordanian-Egyptian technical committee for joint cooperation in electric power and energy fields.

Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy Maher Abaza said here Saturday that there was a possibility for involving Saudi Arabia in the interconnection project so that Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia would be linked by an electric grid which allows the exchange of excessive power among the three countries.

Abbadie back after Islamic jurors' talks in Riyadh

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Secretary General Abdul Salam Al Abbadi returned home Saturday after taking part in the 4th session of the Islamic Fiqh (Jurisprudence) Council, which concluded in Saudi Arabia Friday.

In an arrival statement, Abbadi said he presented to the meeting three research papers on bonds of indebtedness, transplantation of human organs and expropriation of property for bona fide.

On transplantation of human organs, Abbadi said Jordan has been a pioneer in this field.

Abbadi said that participants discussed issues pertaining to alms (zakat) of shares and changes in currency exchange, selling of commercial shares, resale with specification of gain, and using zakat money for the Islamic Solidarity Fund.

Abbadi added that participants also approved the JD 1 million annual budget of the academy and adopted a recommendation calling for the publication of an Islamic jurisprudence encyclo-

paedia.

At the conclusion of the meeting, participants sent a cable to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for his continuous support of the academy.

In Riyadh, Islam's leading jurists have prohibited the sale of organs for transplants, the official Saudi Press agency (SPA) reported.

The ruling, after the six-day meeting of the council which ended in Jeddah Thursday, was part of a detailed decision that could influence medical practice in the 46 nations represented on the council.

The two sides also reviewed some of the topics on the agenda of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Foreign Ministers meeting scheduled to be held in Amman in March, Jordan News Agency, Petra, Saturday said.

The conference will be held on March 19 with the participation of 80 Islamic states and organisations in addition to 250 prominent figures.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nabil Al Nimer and Turkish Ambassador in Amman Samih Balan Saturday reviewed Jordanian-Turkish bilateral relations and the latest developments in the region.

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Damage beyond repair

ISRAEL may temporarily rejoice in putting mines and booby traps in the path of the "ship of return," but the peaceful dialogue between the Palestinians and Israel will be irreparably damaged to the detriment of both sides. Surely, Israel's long arm has much to do with the various impediments and obstacles which have delayed the mission of peace of the ship of return. The policymakers in Israel, whether from the Likud or Labour vintage, have demonstrated once again that they cannot stomach peaceful dialogue with the Palestinians, no matter what form it takes. Has the world forgotten how Israel fought tooth and nail all efforts for dialogue between Israeli thinkers and parliamentarians with the representatives of the Palestinians on one pretext or another? Can the Israeli people be truly proud of their negative record on real communication and exchange of views with the principal party in the Arab-Israeli conflict? If free and peaceful contacts and direct negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis are perpetually denied, and all offers for direct expression of political aspirations and yearnings are constantly impeded, we are afraid that the people directly affected will be forced to conclude that they have no recourse left except to express their views by stones, bullets or worse. Is this the kind of message that the Israelis would want to convey to the Palestinian uprising? Surely the manifestation of raw power and arrogance towards the Palestinians are not the kind of catalysts for peaceful resolution of the Palestinian case that the people of the West Bank and Gaza are waiting for. The scores of Palestinian deportees and the men of good-will on board the "ship of return" cannot be construed as a threat to the security of Israel.

The worst civil scenario that the world could have expected was perhaps to deny the ship entry to the territorial waters of Israel. It never crossed our mind that Israeli complexes against dealing with the Palestinians would go the extent of resorting to threats on the lives of the prospective captain and crew of the ship. We are truly saddened by the recent behaviour of the Israeli government with regard to the peaceful voyage aboard an unarmed vessel, especially coming as it does in the heels of Israel's brutal oppression of the Palestinians.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King reiterates Arab stand

IN his remarks to the French monthly magazine "Express", His Majesty King Hussein reiterated Jordan's stand on the Middle East problem and said the only way to bring about a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict was through convening an international peace conference, a mechanism which would secure the Palestinian people's national rights. The King's assertion came a time when the Western media machine is pumping material about a visit to the region at the end of the current month by the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to sound out prospects for what was dubbed as encouragement to the parties concerned to enter into direct negotiations over the so-called autonomous rule in the occupied territories. Jordan has time and again reiterated its unwavering stand on any future negotiations which emanated from the Nov. 8-11 Amman Arab summit. Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak also made it clear on many occasions that there were no intentions to go back to the concept of negotiations towards an autonomous rule compromise. In light of this conclusion, Washington should understand better the facts on the ground and it seems, from what we have been receiving about the forthcoming Shultz visit, that his mission would not be more than another futile dialogue. Nobody is against a revived U.S. involvement to push forward the peace process, but Washington should realize that any negotiations outside the frame of an international conference would lead to nowhere. It is also worth mentioning that the Arabs have never seized dialogue with the American administration and despite the fact that the talks with the Americans have borne no fruits. The Arabs are still opening their doors to negotiations with the hope that Washington understands the facts and rise to the level of responsibility of a superpower.

Al Dustour: National responsibility

THE Zionist crime Friday against worshippers in the mosques of Nablus, Hebron and Gaza Strip is yet another manifestation of the fact that Israel has become more and more immune to international denunciation for their arbitrary and oppressive measures against our people in the occupied territories. Against this backdrop of the current state of affairs, supported by the United States and "ratified" by the invalid Arab Nation which is even incapable of sending out any sign of protest, the Israeli enemy surges ahead with its series of inhuman crimes against women and children in the West Bank and Gaza. It is only reasonable to ask of what has happened to the efforts of the committee formed by the urgent meeting of the Arab foreign ministers last month. To ask about the committee is, in fact, to wonder about the responsibility of the Arab Nation towards what is going on in the occupied territories. The current state of affairs prompts us to rise to the responsibility and to assume a genuine role in defending our people against the Israeli aggression.

Sawt Al Shaab: Arabs get world support

THE Arab stand formulated at the Amman Arab Summit and His Majesty King Hussein's continued contacts with world leaders have resulted a world-wide support for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference as the only formula towards bringing about a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan, which has always sought peace in the region, views Washington's incomplete and trivial peace initiatives as not enough because they fall short of the ideal international perception to solve the problem. The American-backed Israeli attempts for a partial peace are basically designed to abort genuine efforts towards peace and to diminish the ongoing uprising in the occupied Arab territories. The Israeli community, the helm of which is led by a bunch of extremists of the like of Yitzhak Shamir, will not be able to maintain their drive of confiscating human rights or maintain their monopoly over the U.S. decision making.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Expatriates have it both ways

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THE HOUSING BANK and Petra Bank have announced a plan to finance the purchase or building of housing units in the country for Jordanian expatriates working in the Gulf. Both banks would underwrite 67 to 70 per cent of the cost of the house while the National Bank of Oman would cover the balance. This means a 100 per cent financing. No down payment is required from the beneficiaries. The loan is to be repaid over ten to fifteen years. Other terms and conditions were not disclosed.

This innovative project is worth consideration. It has both positive and negative aspects.

On the positive side we find that 30 per cent of the cost price would be remitted to the country in foreign exchange. This should help the balance of payments but only at the expense of increasing external indebtedness.

The implementation of the project at this sizeable scale would help the real estate sector, currently under stress. It might also encourage the start of other housing schemes because part of the required housing unit might be built anew and not merely bought from the market.

Finally, the project would create a commitment on behalf of expatriates to remit their future savings to the country, rather than keeping them out or invest in foreign currencies abroad.

On the negative side more points may be raised:

First, we observe that the expatriates went out to work and save, and not to borrow. They are expected to make remittances to cater for their families and finance their investments. The contemplated credit facility would reverse the flow of financing in the wrong direction.

Second, it may not be very wise to encourage the expatriates to undertake substantial repayment installments based on their current high income while working in the Gulf. Both the expatriates and the banks might find themselves in a difficult position should the expatriate lose his job and return to Jordan. Instead of starting a new life depending on his savings he may have to start with debt burden beyond his means.

Third, the building of new houses is certainly the least meaningful investment, especially from an expatriate's point of view. We have a shortage of tenants and a glut of houses. We may be better

off looking for alternative investments which would be of more use for both the expatriates and the national economy.

Fourth, owning a house in Amman, and especially a vacant house, would present a temptation for the expatriate to leave his work abroad and return to the country at the wrong time. Under unemployment circumstances we have to encourage our expatriates to continue working abroad as long as that was possible.

Fifth, it is quite surprising that the Housing Bank would cover up to 67 per cent of the cost of the house while it does not cover more than JD 7,000 in favour of residents. The wisdom behind this discrimination between expatriates and residents is not understood.

It is our view that the negative points outweigh the positive. This does not mean that we are against expatriates buying or building houses if they so wish. The expatriate is a citizen and has the full rights enjoyed by other citizens. If an expatriate wants to build a house in Amman, he can do so by complying with all terms and conditions and utilising all the facilities that are applicable and available to residents. He should not be asked whether he is an expatriate or a resident. Discrimination for or against expatriates is not justified under any circumstances.

U.S. Jews discover the Palestinians

By Anthony Lewis

STANFORD, California — When you see your best friend acting in a way that will ruin his life, do you pretend not to see it? Do you insist to others that it is really not so bad as it looks? Do you tell yourself that it is his business, not yours?

Americans devoted to Israel should be asking such questions as they contemplate what is happening in the West Bank and Gaza. For Israel is on a path of mortal danger, to its character and even its existence. Those who remain silent at such a moment are not true friends.

During the 20 years of occupation the Jewish community in the United States has been largely silent about Israel's policy. The explanation given was that Israelis were on the line, and outsiders should not tell them what to do. The theory sounds like a benevolent neutrality, but in practice it has been anything but neutral.

In that time U.S. Jewish organizations have led the way in urging American aid to Israel — without strings, without criticism. Israel is the largest U.S. aid recipient, now getting \$3 billion a year. And it gets generous private contributions from Americans.

The effect of all that aid has been to give powerful support, financial and political, to Israeli policy in the occupied territories: The policy that has amounted to creeping annexation. Israeli opponents of the policy were shorn of the argument that friends abroad really disagreed with it. Silence in America helped those in Israel who wanted to go on settling in the West Bank and

Gaza, making it harder for Israel ever to leave.

In the current crisis many American Jews have been troubled, not only by immediate Israeli tactics in putting down Palestinian protests but by the longer-term implications of holding on to the occupied territories.

Some have voiced their concerns, among them leaders of important Jewish organisations.

But others continue to avert their eyes. They say, for example, that the U.S. press has been unfair in its portrayal of the Palestinian protests and Israeli response. But Israel's press has been just as blind in reporting the instances of beating randomly selected Palestinians.

Another cause for concern is that some American Jewish leaders continue to deny the reality of

the grievances felt by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. For Jews to lack sympathetic understanding of a people denied control of their own lives seems especially sad.

The current chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Morris B. Abram, issued a statement that spoke of the protests as "designed to terrify and to undermine the foundations of a democratic society." He said the disturbances were "not just incidents of domestic unrest" but were "nothing less than a new form of warfare against Israel."

He said Israel was just trying to "restore normalcy to Gaza and West Bank."

Anyone who wants to know what "normalcy" meant for the Palestinians under the occupation

should read two extraordinary articles in the issues of *The New Yorker* dated Feb. 8 and Feb. 15. They are by an Israeli writer, David Grossman, who spent seven weeks in the West Bank last year, before the uprising. He wrote a book that was a best-seller in Israel; *The New Yorker* pieces are taken from it.

Americans should also try to think of Palestinians as human beings, with the usual human desire for respect and the usual feelings of national pride, and they should speak out when they see the danger of Israel trying to control another nation.

The Economist, a conservative British magazine supportive of Israel, said: "If Israel is turning ugly, it is not because its army is inept, but because it is a small Jewish nation which since 1967 has been sitting heavily on a Palestinian nation" — *The New York Times*.

Back to the Mideast

The following editorial appeared in *The Washington Post* last week.

THE URGENCY generated by the Palestinian riots and the Israeli reaction to them has propelled the United States into a new Middle East mission. Whether it goes beyond improvising a response to appeals to Do Something is unclear. But a moment when many are questioning the decency and durability of the status quo is the time to try. Envoys have been dispatched to see if something can be gotten under way.

There does not seem to be a "plan" which will set some people to asking whether Washington knows where it is going and others to suspecting that it does. Rather, to get started quickly and, at the same time, to respect the domestic political calendar, the State Department has taken off the shelf some modest ideas representing enough promise of movement, but also enough caution and consensus, to survive the political battering of an election year and to be used to any next president. Moscow's role evidently is to be addressed in the talks the secretary of state is conducting with his Soviet counterpart to plan the next summit.

The new path skirts the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which represents the bulk of the Palestinian people but which the United States keeps at arm's length in deference to Israeli objections to its tactics and goals. U.S. officials seek instead to draw in the elusive but moderate Jordan and to resume an old game of mirrors on the West Bank — trying to locate local leaders acceptable to both Israel and the PLO.

The idea is to use the time up to the U.S. and Israeli elections of next November to build the halfway house of Palestinian autonomy contemplated in the Camp David accords, and then to shift to the issue of the occupied territories' final status.

Giving autonomy priority is meant to draw in Israel's ruling Likud Party. Offering an early transition to talks on final status is meant to open a door to Israel's Labour Party and, meanwhile, to give Palestinians the assurance they demand that autonomy is not a dead end.

It is an approach of some cleverness, but cleverness in itself will take American diplomacy nowhere. What is needed is a sure and steady hand and sustained high-level commitment of the sort Henry Kissinger and then President Jimmy Carter showed to be essential and productive. Reagan, who gives no sign of being ready to apply his own prestige, and a successor not yet chosen are going to have to be very tough. This means standing up to Soviets and Arabs to ensure that Israel's legitimate security demands are met and taking the domestic heat from Israel's friends, whose agitation will be the sure sign that American policy is getting serious about respecting Palestinian self-determination, too.

LETTERS

How many children have to die?

To the Editor:

LAST Friday, I was driving in the vicinity of a school which recently suffered the loss of one of its students. "Stop" signs are clearly placed but this seems to make no difference. I had to take avoiding action to prevent an accident. The driver was not a teenage "wiz" but a gentleman of about sixty years old. He was very polite and apologized for his mistake. Had that mistake involved the life of a child, I'm not sure "sorry" would have been enough.

What options do we have before another young life is needlessly lost? We could have policemen on constant patrol or we could protect all our schools by putting "sleeping policemen" or what the Americans call "speed bumps." These demand that the driver slows down sufficiently or he/she will damage his/her car. Alas it seems that the only way to protect our children is to do this. Fast driving in the vicinity of a school will damage your car. It is tragic that the only way we can get drivers to take care of our youngsters is to hit "their pockets," but is it not infinitely more tragic to kill a young child?

I strongly recommend that this be done in the neighbourhood of all our schools — government, private and foreign before another tragedy occurs.

Elizabeth Hanna
P.O. Box: 5144
Amman

William Ormsbee said: "Withdrawal is not synonymous with the end of Southcom." Even after the treaties are fully implemented and the bases are turned over to Panamanians on Dec. 31, 1999.

Until that time, the United States is responsible for running the canal. The treaties say the bases are under the "complete control" of Washington.

"We've been making preliminary plans for withdrawal (in 1999)," Southcom spokesman

traced its beginnings to the arrival

of the marines in Panama in 1903, days after Panama, with encouragement from Washington, declared independence from Colombia. Army troops arrived in 1911, three years before the canal opened.

U.S. military strength in Panama peaked at 67,000 during World War II.

The U.S. Army School of the Americas was started in Panama in 1946 to train Latin American officers and foster anti-Communism. It became known among left-leaning Latin Americans as the "school of coup" for the instruction it provided to thousands of rightist officers from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, El

Salvador, Nicaragua and other countries.

Under the treaties, the school

was ordered out of Panama in 1984. It was moved to Fort Benning, Georgia.

Southcom's primary job re-

mains defence of the canal, but its duties have evolved over the years.

It is responsible for U.S. military operations throughout Latin America, which have ranged from road building in Central America to a joint anti-narcotics drive in Bolivia. It handles the assignment of military advisers, including those in El Salvador, to train troops in counterinsurgency to combat an 8-year-old guerrilla war.

U.S. army special forces,

known as green berets, based at Fort Davis frequently are sent to Latin American countries as instruc-

tors.

Intelligence flights from Pan-

ama have been used to track the movements of Salvadoran guer-

illas and troops of Nicaragua's leftist government. Navy ships off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts monitor communications in Nicaragua.

An orientation booklet put out by Southcom also says the com-

mand is responsible for "disaster

relief, evacuation of U.S. citizens from endangered areas, strategic

and tactical reconnaissance,

counter-intelligence, subversion and illegal traffic of arms and drugs."

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Shortages of cooking oil, sugar are hot items in Egypt

By Dalia Baligh
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — In coffeehouses, newspapers and the People's Assembly, the biggest topic these days isn't Middle East politics.

It's cooking oil and sugar — the latest essential commodities to run short in Egypt, which imports 60 per cent of its food.

An exploding population and lack of foreign currency often cause shortages of critical staples. But cooking oil and sugar are particularly vital to the diet of rural peasants, who make up more than half of Egypt's population, and the urban poor.

Cooking oil is added to beans, the daily breakfast and dinner of the poor, and is used to fry vegetables, especially eggplant and potatoes, the usual peasant lunch. Egyptians consume so much sugar in tea, pastries and candy that the health ministry has begun a television campaign to convince people that more than six lumps a day is harmful.

The two shortages have been discussed in the Shura Council, a government body of experts that provides non-binding advice to President Hosni Mubarak and to parliament.

Sedki admits the shortages

And in the People's Assembly itself, Prime Minister Atef Sedki was taken to task about his ministers' statements denying the shortages. He admitted they weren't being entirely candid, but assured

parliament members that Egypt, once again, will get by.

Nobody disagrees on the cause of the shortages, which have also involved rice, flour and soap. A Shura Council report put it simply: "The widening gap between the amounts of food produced and consumed in Egypt since the beginning of the 1980s is the result of increased population and a huge increase in consumption."

Egypt's 51 million people grow by another million every nine months. With stagnant food production, population growth has transformed the country from a food exporter three decades ago to an importer of three-fifths of its food. The struggling economy, facing a foreign debt of \$44 billion, must find money for the imports.

No one seems to have a ready solution for the problem, other than increasing production. But that's easier said than done.

Most Egyptians live in about 4 per cent of the country's area, the Nile River valley. There is little money for the costly process of reclaiming and cultivating desert land outside that zone.

Despite being among the world's great producers of cotton, the source of most cooking oil used in Egypt, the country must import more than 80 per cent of its needs. The cost of the imports is \$250 million a year, and the foreign currency isn't always available.

"We import 500,000 tons of cooking oil at a cost of \$300 a

ton," said Rifaa Saadawy, an official in charge of oil imports at the industry ministry.

"So the cooking oil crisis is connected with the foreign exchange crisis, and any shortage in foreign currency means a shortage in providing cooking oil for local consumption," Saadawy said.

Saadawy was quoted by the daily newspaper Al Akhbar.

Similarly, despite expanses of cane in central Egypt, the country's farmers produce only about half enough sugar for local consumption, forcing imports of 700,000 tons at a cost of almost \$158 million last year.

A further complication is that many staple foods are distributed through expensive subsidy and ration systems. Under pressure from the International Monetary Fund and at the urging of the United States, the government has been trying to reduce the systems' burden on the national treasury.

State-run and opposition newspapers have bombarded the ministry of supply with criticism over the shortages.

Humour columnist Ahmed Ragab of the daily Al Akhbar is in the forefront. In a recent column, he joked that to cover up shortages, the ministry starts rumours about the food in short supply.

"Beware of eating grains because they cause the pancreas to swell," Ragab wrote, "and beware of eating anything else, because it will shrink your pancreas."

"Signed: The Supply Ministry."

\$2.2b for subsidies

Despite the cutbacks, however, the government spent \$2.2 billion in the 1986-87 fiscal year on subsidies for food and other items. That's only \$675 million less than the subsidy bill in 1983-

84 and remains much higher than levels Washington and the IMF want.

The government does not want to eliminate or sharply reduce subsidies, lest it face a recurrence of food riots caused by price increases in 1977. More than 70 people died in those disturbances.

For peasants like Nawal Mohamedine, who lives at El Faronia, 30 miles north of Cairo, the system isn't working.

"The official price of a one-kilogramme bottle of oil was 80 piasters (36 cents), but now it's not available in the shops," she said. "I have to buy it from the black market for 3.5 pounds (\$1.60) a bottle. It has limited our food to next to nothing."

She said the expensive oil means she rarely is able to serve the normal midday meal of eggplant and potatoes, turning to bread and cheese instead.

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Without the carved wooden board and counters.

DAMASCUS — A blue haze fills the Rawda cafe, constantly replenished by elderly men puffing on the qanqah, an elaborate water pipe that begins with a rubber hose and ends at a thumbnail-size ember of tobacco.

Waiters in dirty grey aprons move among the tables, precariously balancing tiny cups of strong Turkish coffee, glasses of heavily sweetened Arab tea, and toogs holding heated tobacco coils for the pipes. The Rawda, steps away from the parliament building, is filled with boisterous conversation and clattering dice.

The men at the cafe — women dare not invade an Arab cafe — are middle-aged and beyond, whiling away a winter's afternoon.

The scene is commonplace throughout the Arab World: Men gathered for coffee and gossip, smoking and playing taawil backgammon.

Backgammon has been the pastime of the Middle East for centuries. Rare is the Arab house

without the carved wooden board and counters.

"I have played every day for 40 years," says Kamal Bay, a retired government employee, as his hands move from dice to counters in a practiced blur.

The first known European book about games, published in 1283 by the Spanish king known as Alfonso the Learned, contains a drawing of six men playing a king playing backgammon. The Arabs took the game to Spain.

"For some reason, backgammon became the rage of the Ottoman Empire," said Afif Bahmassi, Syria's director of antiquities. "It really spread across the Arab World with the Turks, and it stayed behind when they left."

The looq history of the game is evoked today in the tiny cafes of Damascus, where men lapse into Persian and Turkish to call out the numbers on the dice: in Turkish, *hir, iki, say, dourz* (one, two, three, four).

In the West, most backgammon enthusiasts play a single game, the rules of which were formalised in the 18th century by the Englishman, Edmond Hoyle.

The Arabs refer to this game as *franjik*, or frankish, apparently an unflattering reference to the fact that the game was played by Christian Crusaders invading the Holy Land.

In the Middle East, backgammon is very much a part of oral tradition. There are no published guides on winning, or even any how-to books.

"It's something you don't learn," said Najah Saleh, who has been playing for 45 years. "We just get used to it. After a while you develop your own strategy."

A recent American visitor to a backgammon cafe was told that betting is not permitted because it violates a municipal ordinance and Islam's holy book, the Koran. But everyone in the cafe winked at this.

"Backgammon has the advantage of being endlessly original," says Nassar, the antique dealer.

"In 25 years of playing, I've never played the same game twice, which is more than you can say for most things in life," — Los Angeles Times.



Men gather in cafes to play backgammon, viewed as the world's oldest board game (Photo by Melanie Friend)

Men of the Rawda keep Arab tradition

By Charles Wallace

DAMASCUS — A blue haze fills the Rawda cafe, constantly replenished by elderly men puffing on the qanqah, an elaborate water pipe that begins with a rubber hose and ends at a thumbnail-size ember of tobacco.

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long parkas, forest green suede blousons, even fringed Western-style jackets with padded but natural shoulders.

Jean-Paul Gaultier seemed to borrow his theatrical clothes from Sherwood Forest. Robin Hood and his merry men pranced around in hats shot with arrows, body-suit vests and jackets fastened under the crotch over shiny harlequin or diagonally-striped pants. The multicoloured pointed-toe shoes were great for kicking up their little heels.

Issey Miyake's collection resembled sinister maitre d's at an exotic restaurant. The models wore simple white silk shirts dotted in front over ultra-fine leather or tuxedo-fabric wool. Their skull-capped heads sported a stiff braid. Instead of ties, they wore wavy little horsehair doogies.

Pierre Cardin displayed colourful blazers, ties and contrasting pants in a classical vein. But his touch of wit surfaced in outifts such as a wide basque belt paired with a burnt-orange shirt, topped with a swirl straw hat borrowed from his women's collection.

Yves Saint Laurent's striking and solidly commercial meo's collection was designed by Bernard Sanz, lured away from his former job as menswear designer for Hermès.

The collection showed touches of colour and luxury fabric. For sport, there were fur-collared

Latest in men's fashion is frequently fanciful

By Suzy Patterson
The Associated Press

PARIS — As four days of fall and winter men'swear showings concluded Monday, it was obvious that Paris was bent on enticing men out of their old grey suits — the creations ranged from fanciful to fantastic.

The International Menswear Salon at the Porte de Versailles attracted 900 exhibitors from 25 countries, in addition to about 50,000 buyers and journalists.

On the runways around Paris, creators were showing both zany clothes and good ideas for men who would like to look a little wild on weekends.

Structured, round-shoaled blazers and belted jackets, huge greatcoats or belted short trenchcoats and lots of new colour were some overall trendy winners. Pants on the wild side were

unpleated but gathered at the belted waist.

Way-out guys will shrug their shoulders into padded but sloped looks, wear jackets buttoned up to the breastbone, sport some bicoulored lapels, or wear little-boy collars on pea jackets.

Less leather

Claude Mootana's collection was full of strong ideas with an eye to colourful fashion. The collection featured less leather than usual, with an occasional lambskin blouson or a toggle-buttoned duffel in acid green with fur lining.

Yohji Yamamoto's sober collection based mainly on navy blue was a mix of cockneys, schoolboys and chimney sweeps. Pea jackets, undergraduate scarfs and a burst of colours in suspedored

Egypt tries to spruce up its garbage collectors

By Bahgat Badie
Reuter

CAIRO — The Cairo authorities are getting some of the Egyptian capital's garbage men to clean up their act by swapping their ramshackle, filthy donkey carts for trucks.

A drive to replace the wooden carts, used for generations to collect refuse in this city of 12 million people, started in January with a pilot project on the River Nile, islands of Zamalek and Roda.

The garbage collectors, called *zabaleen*, now picking up the rubbish from the back doors of apartments and villas are the same men as before.

But some now wear overalls instead of their usual rags as they tote baskets of refuse to crew trucks, 20 of which have been bought by the city with U.S. aid.

I'm sorry — I'll read that again

An important part of management training is concerned with becoming an efficient communicator. Michael Skapinker reports on his unusual introduction to public speaking.

ON an afternoon when sensible people were out doing their last-minute Christmas shopping, I found myself in a London office talking to a video camera about the painful problems that cowboys used to have with the crotch of their Levi overalls.

It is a riveting story. Many have winced at it, among them executives from American Express, Peugeot, BP, Saudi International Bank, and other companies — as they too have read it to the camera. The anecdote is part of the Kingtree group of consultants' training on how to become an effective communicator.

Kingtree, along with the rest of us, has noticed how many speakers ruin promising material with leaden delivery and poor timing. Many executives prove the point with their reading of the tale of the cowboys and their Levi.

Why were the Levi's so uncomfortable? According to the script that Kingtree gives its clients, the original overalls used to have copper rivets on their pockets and a single rivet at the crotch. It was this lone rivet which caused the problems. When cowboys crouched too long at the campfire, they began to suffer from a painful condition known as Hot Rivet Syndrome.

Three generations of cowboys had to endure this hazard. Then in 1933, Walter Haas, the president of Levi-Strauss, went on a camping trip to the High Sierras. One night, beside a crackling campfire, he too fell victim. At the next board meeting, the directors voted the crotch rivet into extinction.

The story seems a perfect beginning to a speech on how important it is for managers to put themselves in their customers' shoes — or overalls. It should also get a laugh from the audience.

Later, when I watched my own rendering of it on the video, I realised I would have been lucky to raise a few polite smiles. It was all too obvious that I was reading material that had been written by

Kingtree does not recommend the second method as a permanent public speaking technique. Real clients, who pay up to £500 a session, will come back for more training.

All the first session aims to do is encourage managers to use their own conversational style. "That's your standard of excellence," Miers said. "And you can't change it. Anything else looks phoney" — Financial Times feature.

The Kingtree trainers begin each session by asking clients about their work and their previous public speaking experience.

The Levi's exercise follows. Like many Kingtree clients, I did my best to read the story fluently.

The result, according to John Miers, my tutor, was like pouring oil too quickly into a funnel. I was giving my audience too much to take in at a time.

He asked me to start reading from the beginning again. This time he asked me to slow down. Look down at the script only briefly, he said. Just long enough to take in a few words. Then look at the camera for a while before you say the words. Carry on looking at it after you have spoken and only then return to the script.

The result seemed slightly ridiculous. "Some, three," lengthy pause, "generations of cowboys," protracted silence, "suffered with this," pause, "unusual occupational hazard."

That, Miers said when I had finished reading the story, was far easier to follow than the original "fluent" attempt.

I looked disbelieving. The camera, however, never lies, and we settled down to look at my various efforts on the video.

I discovered that, apart from my two readings of the anecdote, Miers had also recently filmed our original chat. Watch where you pause in your everyday conversation, Miers said. All over the place, I noticed. In the middle of sentences. Halfway through a thought.

We then watched my two attempts at the Levi's story. As unnatural as the second reading had seemed, I had to admit that it bore a closer resemblance to real conversation and was significantly easier to listen to.

Later, when I watched my own rendering of it on the video, I realised I would have been lucky to raise a few polite smiles. It was all too obvious that I was reading material that had been written by

Liverpool trounces Watford to extend unbeaten run

LONDON (Agencies) — The Liverpool goal machine ruthlessly disposed of Watford Saturday as the runaway English First Division leader romped to another victory in its relentless charge towards the championship title.

John Barnes celebrated his return to his former club by scoring the final goal in a 4-1 away success as Liverpool remained unbeaten in the league since the start of the season back in August.

After 26 matches, Kenny Dalglish's team, 12 points clear of the pack, edged ever closer to Leeds United's First Division record of unbeaten matches.

Leeds went 29 games without defeat in the 1973-4 season.

English and Scottish SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS

LONDON (R) — English and Scottish league soccer tables after matches played Saturday.

English League							
Division One							
Liverpool	26	20	6	0	63	12	66
Manchester United	28	15	9	4	43	27	54
Nottingham Forest	26	14	7	5	50	24	49
Everton	26	13	7	6	38	16	46
Arsenal	27	13	6	8	39	26	45
Queen's Park Rangers	27	12	7	8	32	30	43
Wimbledon	27	11	9	7	40	31	42
Luton	26	11	5	10	40	32	38
Sheffield Wednesday	27	11	4	12	33	42	37
Tottenham	27	9	7	11	26	31	34
Southampton	27	8	9	10	35	39	33
Newcastle	26	8	9	9	31	38	33
West Ham	27	7	11	9	29	35	32
Chelsea	28	7	7	13	34	47	31
Portsmouth	28	6	12	10	27	44	30
Norwich	27	8	5	14	26	34	29
Coventry	25	7	7	11	27	39	28
Derby	26	6	6	13	22	32	24
Oxford	26	6	6	14	32	53	24
Watford	27	5	8	14	18	36	23
Charlton	27	4	9	14	24	41	21
Scottish League							
Premier Division							
Celtic	32	21	9	2	59	20	51
Rangers	33	21	6	5	64	22	48
Hibernian	33	17	13	3	62	26	47
Aberdeen	33	16	13	4	47	21	45
Dundee	32	14	6	12	59	42	34
Dundee United	33	12	10	11	37	36	34
Hibernian	33	9	13	11	31	35	31
St. Mirren	32	7	11	14	33	49	25
Motherwell	33	9	6	18	26	46	24
Falkirk	32	6	8	18	30	59	20
Dunfermline	32	5	8	19	24	63	18
Morton	32	2	9	21	22	75	13

Software Exchange Friends

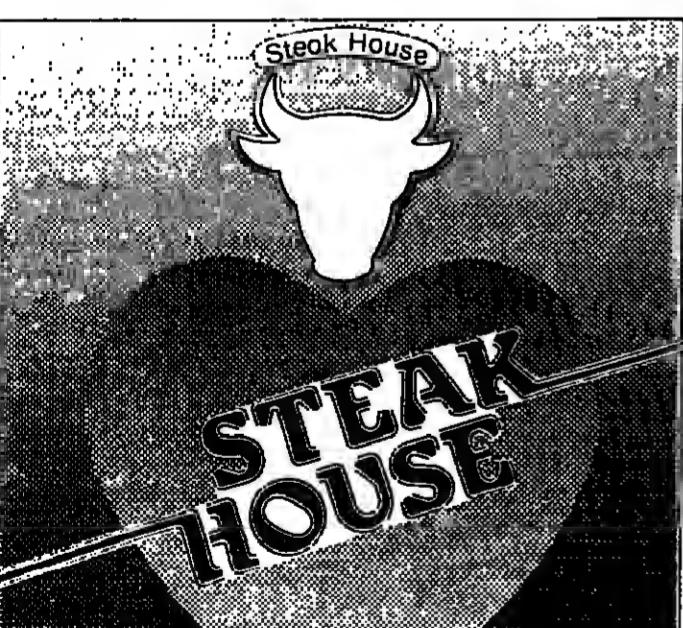
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A furnished studio apartment with central heating and telephone. Location: Jabal Amman, 4th Circle.

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BIGGEST, MOST LAVISH WINTER GAMES BEGIN WITH BEFITTING COLOURFUL EXTRAVAGANZA

CALGARY (Agencies) — The biggest and most lavish Winter Olympics ever opened Saturday with a traditional torch lighting, a colourful parade of athletes and an expected return of Arctic air.

And weather forecasters issued a warning to 60,000 spectators planning to attend: bundle up. Temperatures were expected to dip to minus 8 degrees C (18 degrees F) early Saturday, forecasters said, making the weather at the opening ceremonies "unpleasant."

But Olympic organisers insisted frigid weather wouldn't stop the show.

The cold weather follows a Chinook, warm wind blowing over the Canadian Rockies, that gave this city of 650,000 people springlike weather for two days.

Mild weather was forecast to return to Calgary Monday, the second full day of competition.

The two-hour opening ceremony, which sold out 18 months ago, was to begin at 2000 GMT at McMahon Stadium near the University of Calgary campus. Olympic officials estimated as many as two billion people were to watch the ceremony on television.

Defender Steve Bruce, Manchester United's recent signing from Norwich, scored his first goal for his new club and midfielder Liam O'Brien scored the second a minute later.

Forest trailed to a 38th-minute strike by Colin Clarke but Nigel Clough seized the equaliser 60 seconds before halftime.

Manchester United, who recently ousted Chelsea from the F.A. Cup, sustained the London club's unhappy season. They had made an encouraging start but it was ended by the rapid double blow from Bruce and O'Brien, although Chelsea reduced the deficit through substitute Colin West in the 82nd minute.

With the flame burning at McMahon Stadium, the centrepiece of the show was the procession of 1,789 athletes representing a record 57 nations, led by the eight-member team from Greece.

Organisers of the Calgary Games worked nearly three years on the opening ceremony, which includes an 11-minute "Rocky Mountain salute to the 15th Winter Games."

Specific details were being kept



The Olympic Oval at Calgary where speed-skating events will be held



The bobsleigh and luge track at Canada Olympic Park is one of the most technologically advanced bobs/luge facilities in the world



The 90-metre ski jump

Calgary that white sand has been trucked in for the ceremonies after two days of warm weather and hot television lights have been melting the snow on the stadium field.

Ice hockey fires the salvos

The first salvos of Olympic competition were being fired by ice hockey players from Czechoslovakia and West Germany, before Governor Sauve was

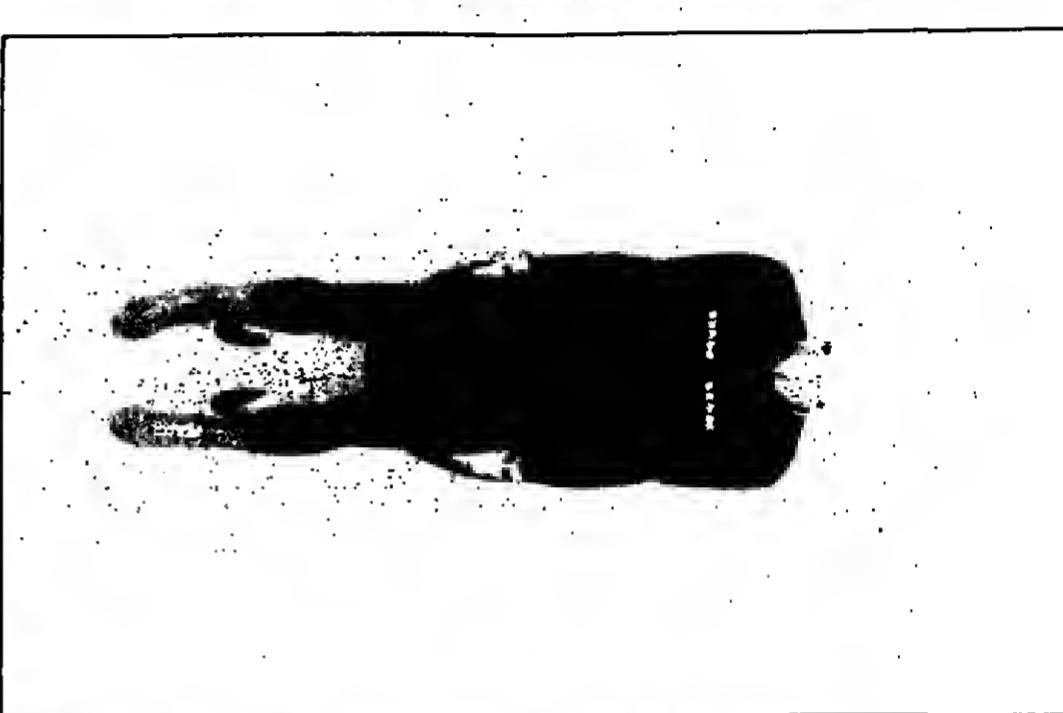
specifically invited to open.

The two teams were timetabled to begin their Pool B match nearly 45 minutes before the end of the long-awaited and closely-guarded two-hour extravaganza.

Around 60,000 people were expected to brave the cold and pack McMahon Stadium to watch the multi-coloured festival of music and dance which will climax with the lighting of the Olympic flame.

Organisers plan to release

25,000 helium-filled balloons and



To slide is human but the residents of northern Italy turned the luge into a sport

The 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics in figures

CALGARY (AP) — The Winter Olympics in numbers:
Price paid by ABC for TV rights: \$309 million.
International Olympic Committee members: 88
National Olympic Committees: 167
Winter sports federations: 6
Games: XV
Days: 16
Cost: \$800 million.
Countries: 57
Athletes accredited: 1,789
Coaches: 1,100
Smallest delegation of athletes: 1 (Belgium, the Fiji Islands, Guam, Luxembourg, the Philippines)
Largest delegation of athletes: 164 (the United States)
Sports: 10
Venues: 9
Events: 46
Medals: 138
Mascots: 2
Media: 4,500
Residents in Calgary: 640,000
Visitors expected: 100,000
Souvenir pins: Approximately 250,000

Torch bearers: 6,500
Torch weight: 1.5 kilograms
Seats at Saddledome, main arena for hockey and figure skating: 19,000
Seats at McMahon Stadium, site of opening and closing ceremonies: 60,000
Seats at Olympic Oval, arena for speed skating: 4,000
Tickets printed: 1.9 million.



Canada's bobsled team

ture of the Canadian Rocky Mountains, similar to the flags of the Olympic nations created by spectators at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

Two weeks ago, organisers discovered the Coca-Cola logo had been emblazoned accidentally on the front next to the Olympic emblem, violating the IOC's ban on commercialisation. The U.S.

based corporation sponsored the project.

About a dozen inmates at the Calgary Correctional Centre volunteered to work up to 10 hours a day unpacking the cases, turning each inside out, removing the label that says "Made in Taiwan" and repacking them.

They finished the job Wednesday.

Advertisement
Extension of bid opening
For tender 8/87 (Water Meters)

Water Authority of Jordan announces that the bid opening date is extended to **Tuesday March 8, 1988, at 12 noon, Jordan local time**, instead of the previous date.

Eng. Mutaz Belbeisi
Acting President
Water Authority

CONCORD

KING KONG LIVES

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

OPERA

THE GREAT AMERICAN GIRL ROBBERY

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PLAZA

THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Ten Jordanian companies complete merging process

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Industrial Investments Corporation (JIIC) has completed all procedures merging nine diversified private-shareholding companies under its umbrella, according to an announcement by the comptroller of companies at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply.

At an extraordinary session held last month, the JIIC general assembly endorsed the financial statements of the ten companies and formally approved the creation of the new entity which retained the name of Jordan Industrial Investments Corporation.

The companies which merged with JIIC are the following:

- (1) The Jordan Department Stores (Al Waha Stores).
- (2) Jordan Management and Consultancy Corporation.
- (3) Overall (Jordan) Company.
- (4) Jordan Solar Energy Company.
- (5) Jordan Electropolating Company.
- (6) Jordan Metal Furniture Industries.
- (7) Arab Metal Industries.
- (8) National Cast Iron Industries.
- (9) Jordan Free Trade Company.

JIIC is a public-shareholding company established in 1980. It has recorded a JD 217,063 net income after tax in 1982 but rapidly weakened and posted a loss of JD 521,097 in 1985, the latest year for which financial information is available.

Two weeks ago, the minister of industry, trade and supply formed a committee to manage the operations of JIIC. The committee comprises representatives of banks and financial institutions which had given loans to JIIC and the other companies.

The Saturday's announcement by the comptroller of companies said that the new capital of JIIC was raised to JD 12.5 million spread over 12.5 shares each carrying a nominal value of JD 1.

This capital increase was achieved after restructuring the equity base through writing-off some losses and capitalising some loans.

Other points in the announcement reduced the number of the board of directors from 11 to nine and empowered the board to redistribute the shares according to the new capital after restructuring.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — Trading Saturday amounted to 418,658 shares for a total value of JD 519,498. The highest number of shares traded (80,689) were those of Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipment which is 50 per cent paid-up. Shares of the Universal Chemical Industries and National Cable and Wire Manufacturing ranked in second and third places with 55,350 shares and 42,800 shares respectively. In terms of value, Universal Chemical Industries was the most costly as it amounted to JD 106,726 with the price going up from JD 1,860 a share to JD 1,980. Trading in the Arab Aluminum Industry shares amounted to JD 58,129 while National Cable and Wire Manufacturing shares amounted to JD 42,795. The total number of contracts executed Saturday stood at 605 with 120 of them related to trading in shares of the Universal Chemical Industries. At the close of the session there was no offers to sell Arab Bank shares which were earlier traded at JD 120,900 and JD 121,000. There was also no offers to sell or buy shares of Jordan Gulf Bank which closed at JD 1,180.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carol Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Your judgment will be unusually sharp today, so be sure to take advantage of any opportunities which seem lucrative. Stop daydreaming all the time, and put your good ideas into action.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) By making a new plan you can put into effect those changes which have been on your mind. Be more thoughtful of your mate.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 19) Try to be more time-efficient in the days ahead by planning a schedule and sticking to it. Don't allow anyone to stop you from your opinions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Join forces with an important acquaintance who can help you to become better organized. This will be a very lucky and prosperous day.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Pay special attention to matters involving your health today. You can find some good financial opportunities in the newspaper.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You'll have some free time today, so use it constructively by planning your schedule for the coming week. Be happy with your mate tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your

activities should be centered at home today; try to be helpful to your family. Go out on the town for entertainment tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) It would be wise to stay at home this evening, so invite some interesting friends into your abode and have a charming night together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study your property and figure out how you can best improve it. Make a plan for this tonight. Try to improve the condition of your budget.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may come across a plan for expanding your business interests, but don't get in over your head. Make sure you understand it right.

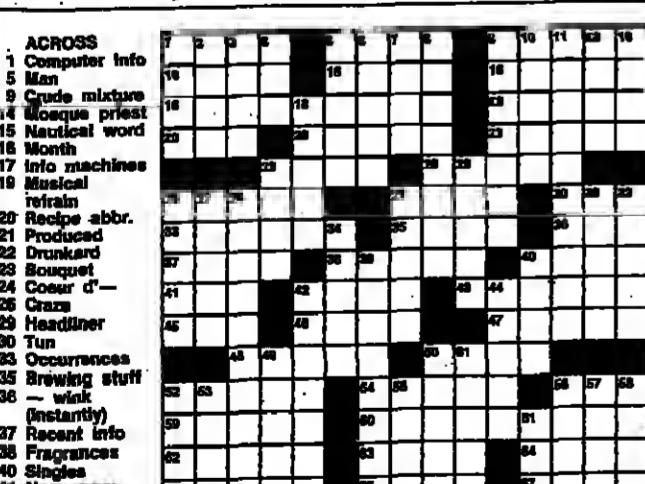
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If you have a new project in mind, discuss it only with those people who you know you can trust. Don't be secretive with your mate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can make some progress at attaining a personal wish if you set your mind to it. Try to be more helpful to your mate tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) To avoid any last minute oversights, a necessary trip should be planned now. Look to a good friend for an important favor you need.

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THE Daily Crossword



Soviets blame U.S. for Black Sea collision

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union issued an official protest Saturday to the United States over a Friday incident in which Soviet and U.S. warships collided inside Soviet territorial waters in the Black Sea.

Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news conference two collisions occurred after the U.S. cruiser Yorktown and destroyer Caron "violated the Soviet border" off the southern coast of the Crimean Peninsula.

"Despite warning signals given by approaching Soviet vessels, the American ships did not react. Having intruded, the U.S. vessels manoeuvred dangerously, and this led to a collision," Gerasimov said.

Gerasimov said the U.S. ambassador to Moscow, Jack Matlock, was summoned to the Soviet Foreign Ministry Saturday, where Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh read him a "strong protest."

Moscow accuses U.S. of slandering human rights record

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin accused the U.S. State Department Friday of spreading "malicious slanders" about human rights in the Soviet Union and charged that the United States has violations of its own.

The Soviet news agency TASS carried an interview with Alexei Glukhov of the Soviet Foreign Ministry about the State Department's annual report on human rights around the world.

The report, released Wednesday in Washington, said the Soviet government gave its people greater freedom and showed more tolerance toward dissenters in 1987. But it said an all-powerful secret police remained unchecked.

TASS said the report "again contains malicious slanders against the socialist countries, including the USSR."

Glukhov, first deputy head of

Bush, Dole neck-and-neck in New Hampshire polls

MERRIMACK, New Hampshire (R) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush, once the clear favourite in the race to become the Republican Party's presidential candidate, is now neck-and-neck with Kansas Senator Robert Dole.

Sliding in opinion polls and disowned by a Republican who has long called himself Bush's friend, the bouncy former diplomat and ex-CIA chief is struggling to recover from the blow of finishing third in this week's Iowa state caucus.

Judging by television network opinion polls of probable voters, the New Hampshire presidential primary election next Tuesday has become too close to forecast the result, in contrast to polls less than one month ago showing Bush with a two-to-one lead.

Primaries, part of the presidential selection process, are held in individual states so that voters can select delegates to support their preferred candidates at the national party conventions in the summer.

In a startling upset in Iowa,

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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SILENCE CAN BE GOLDEN

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ K 10 9 5
♦ 8 6 4 2
♦ J 6
♦ Q 8 3

WEST
♦ 8 4
♦ Q 9 7 5
♦ K Q 10 7 3
♦ 7 4

EAST
♦ Q 6 3
♦ 10 3
♦ A 9 6 4 2
♦ J 5

SOUTH
♦ A 7 2
♦ V A K J
♦ Q 8

AK 10 9 6 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♦ 2 NT Pass 3 ♦
Dole Pass 3 ♦ Pass
4 ♦ Pass 5 ♦ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

In tournament bridge, the tendency these days is to overcall on almost any hand that contains 13 cards. When you use two-suited overcalls in the bargain, you can be painting a very expensive picture of your hand.

West's unusual no trump overcall showed the red suits, and it is not the sort of action we favor.

Since North had not yet bid, South's double was for takeout.

When South rebid his club suit at the four-level, North knew his partner had a very powerful hand,

so he decided that his high trump, honor and spade king merited a push to game.

West made his normal lead of the king of diamonds and continued the suit for declarer to ruff. The ace-king of trumps pulled all of the enemy's fangs, and thanks to West's descriptive overcall on a collection of junk declarer could now claim his contract.

Had he had nothing to guide him, declarer's best line would have been to lead three rounds of spades. If the suit split 3-3 or if either defender held a doubleton honor, the long spade would have taken care of declarer's heart loser. If nothing favorable transpired, declarer could still use his trump entry to dummy for a heart finesse. That would have spelled defeat as the cards lie.

Because West's action marked him with at least four hearts, and, therefore, no more than two spades, declarer had a sure-trick alternative line. He cashed the ace-king of hearts and ace of spades, and then continued with a low spade. When West followed low, declarer simply finessed the nine. East won, but had a choice of losing returns. He could either lead a spade into dummy's K-10 tenace, or else play a diamond, which would allow declarer to shift the jack of hearts while ruffing on the board. Either way, 11 tricks were in the bag.

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Iowa police suspect Lebanon

link in counterfeit dollars

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Six people have been arrested in what federal officials say is an international counterfeiting scheme involving thousands of bogus \$100 bills, and investigators are trying to determine whether the phony money came from Lebanon.

The arrests began after an Iowa State University student from Lebanon, Roger Yousef Khoury, 25, was taken into custody by Creston police and federal agents following a tip that suspect bills had been received by a grocery and department store in Creston.

Khoury was charged with passing and possessing phony U.S. money. Federal officials said he had several counterfeit \$100 bills in his possession when he was arrested.

Also arrested during the month-long investigation was Kenny Neil, 29, who played football for Iowa State from 1977 to 1980. Neil, who has been working for the Iowa department of transportation, was a seventh-round draft choice of the New York Jets professional football team in 1981.

Neil was charged with possessing counterfeit money.

Also charged were Daniel Lee Habhab, 28, a disc jockey at an Ames nightclub; his roommate, Guy K. Sejaan, 26, a Lebanese citizen and Iowa State student; and two other students.

Habhab and Sejaan pleaded guilty Thursday to charges of possessing counterfeit \$100 bills.

They have agreed to testify against the other four, officials said.

American Secret Service agent William Lenz said investigators are trying to determine whether the money came from Lebanon.

Documents filed in U.S. district court as part of the guilty pleas by Habhab and Sejaan include an account of Sejaan's conversation last year with two Cedar Rapids men in which they discussed the possible sale of bogus U.S. currency.

Sejaan said he talked to Khoury because he knew Khoury needed money to stay in school. Khoury told him to get \$5,000 in counterfeit money from one of the Cedar Rapids men.

He was charged with possessing counterfeit money.

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